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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Astrakhan Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 14 August 1952

SUBJECT Firing Ranges North of Astrakhan

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

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1.

the Kapustin Yar area, or any other area north of Astrakhan, was used as a range for guided missiles. This obviously does not mean that there is no such range, for it was well known in Astrakhan that there were a number of artillery firing ranges in the area bounded by the following: Yenotayevsk, north Kazanka, Lake Elton, the Uzen River, Kaysatskoye, and Leninsk.

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2.

Several artillery units, some of them heavy caliber, were stationed in the area indicated above they first came there in 1946 and that there were none there before the war. There was one artillery regiment, and perhaps a larger unit, in Kapustin Yar and another artillery regiment in Nikolskoye, as some artillery officers who were stationed in these localities. From time to time these officers would come to Astrakhan for a few days leave.

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All of these officers wore regular army artillery uniforms without any special insignia.

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- 25X1 3. [] there was a tank and artillery range in Yenotayevsk.
25X1 [] whether any tank and artillery units were stationed there
25X1 permanently, but [] in spring and summer there were always
some tank units and some self-propelled and regular artillery units
there. [] 25X1
[] what guns or other 25X1
25X1 weapons were fired or tested at this range but [] they 25X1
must have been of a very heavy caliber because the explosions could
occasionally be heard in Astrakhan. 140 km from Yenotayevsk as the
25X1 crow flies. [] there 25X1
was no other firing range closer to Astrakhan in the same direction.
- 25X1 4. [] there were large army truck units in the Kapustin Yar
25X1 area and [] some of these units were organized and equipped
in Astrakhan before being sent out. [] 25X1
they had American lend-lease trucks, mostly Studebakers and Chevrolets.
25X1 [] these convoys leaving Astrakhan in spring and in the
fall of 1950. Army drivers frequently came on pass to Astrakhan.
- 25X1 5. [] the communication line of all units
stationed in the area north of the Lower Volga went through Stalin-
grad rather than through Astrakhan. [] based on the fact 25X1
that the Astrakhan garrison was rather small - one rifle regiment
and several small service units [] 25X1
larger shipments of military supplies going through Astrakhan to
25X1 Kapustin Yar. [] the railroad line connecting Astrakhan
and Stalingrad (via Delta, Kharbali, Verkhniy Baskunchak, Vladim-
irovka, Kapustin Yar, Verkhnyaya Akhtub, and Paromnaya) was con-
structed during World War II and has only one track.
- 25X1 6. [] information on the following points:
25X1 (a) [] any shipments of alcohol or high octane
gasoline to the area of Kapustin Yar,
25X1 (b) [] the testing or firing of rockets or
guided missiles in this area, nor about the flight testing of
aircraft.
25X1 (c) [] anything about a restricted zone along the
northeastern bank of the Lower Volga. This area is a desert
and nobody would go there unless he had to.

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